

**SIERRA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
GOLDEN WEST RESTAURANT, LOYALTON, CA  
Monday, March 13, 2017 at 6 p.m.**

Board of Directors

Einen Grandi, Chairman

Greg Ramelli, Director

Jim Roberti, Director

Paul Roen, Director

Tom Rowson, Director

Michael Sanchez, Director

Don Wallace, Director

**MINUTES**

**1) CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS**

**Chairman Grandi called the meeting to order at 6:24 PM.**

**Directors present: Roberti, Wallace, Rowson, Sanchez, Roen, Ramelli**

**Directors absent: None**

**Also present: Dave Goicoechea, Cleve Anseth, John Colberg, Rick Roberti, Greg Hinds, Kristi, Jamason, Jay Huebert, Brandon Pangman, and Joel Burdick.**

**1) PUBLIC COMMENT – limited to 5 minutes per speaker**

**Kristi Jamason shared that the Sierra Valley Art and Ag Trail date has been set for September 30, 2017.**

**She also commented that the state water board has drafted a proposed fee schedule for unmanaged groundwater basins with high- and medium-priority rankings. Public comments about the proposed fees will be accepted until April 7, and the fees will be finalized in May. The board members need to be expressing that this fee schedule is so high that it would put local agricultural enterprises out of business. While we don't plan to be in that situation, in the event that something happened, those fee rates would be catastrophic to our area.**

**Greg Hinds introduced himself. He lives in Graeagle and is a water resources engineer. He wants to participate in keeping this great area we live in as great as it is.**

**2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AS READ/DISTRIBUTED FOR 1/16/17 and 2/13/17**

**Director Roen made a motion to approve the minutes for 1/16/17 and 2/13/17 as distributed, Director Sanchez 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.**

**3) REPORTS**

**A. Burkhard Bohm Groundwater Presentation follow-up**

**Kristi Jamason reported that about 38 people attended the workshop, including Mary Randall from DWR. Personally, Jamason thought that it was a good sign there was a lot of participation and interest in SGMA. She suggested the Board could ask Bohm to come to a future meeting and go over the "what do we need to do next" portion.**

**Director Sanchez thought an important part of the presentation was the temperatures of the water and how that can affect water quality.**

#### **B. Large-Capacity Well Ordinance**

**Grandi, Sanchez, Jamason and the secretary went to Quincy on March 9<sup>th</sup> to meet with Tim Beals, Randy Wilson and Jerry Sipe. This group had a conference call with geohydrologist Ken Schmidt to discuss securing his expert advice in creating an evidence-based approach to managing new large-capacity well permits. Schmidt is going to create a map pertaining to specific zones within the basin that are being overdrafted. The map should be done by mid-April.**

#### **C. SVGMD storage of files – Paul Roen**

**Director Roen spoke with Tim Beals about storing SVGMD files at the Sierraville School. SVGMD will share a storage room with the SVRCD. The secretary will coordinate with Victoria Fisher to get a key to that room and to pick a date to move the files over to the building.**

#### **D. UC Davis Groundwater Model Report and Presentation**

**The new date for the workshop is Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 pm at the Sierra Christian Church. Jamason spoke to the grad student who will be giving the presentation about what the presentation should include, suggesting an overview of the model, data inputs that can be changed to run different management scenarios, answers to questions the SVGMD Directors previously submitted, reporting on results of the modeling team running the climate projections through the model and suggestions for next steps.**

#### **E. 2013 Minutes**

**The 2013 minutes are missing, both electronically and in printed form. Any Directors on the board in 2013 were asked to please look through old emails to see if they can find them. Jay Huebert is going to ask Juliana Walsh if she still has these minutes on her personal computer. Director Sanchez discussed the possibility of resetting the dates on the District laptop to recover the missing files.**

#### **F. GSA boundary options – Kristi Jamason**

**Jamason has requested help of Michelle Dooley of DWR in creating the GIS map needed to form the GSA for the subbasin. As Dooley was working on the map, she inquired about the inclusion of the Chilcoot subbasin, which is ranked separately from the Sierra Valley subbasin. Currently, the Chilcoot subbasin has a very low-priority ranking, so there's no need for a GSA. If SVGMD wants to be the GSA for the Chilcoot subbasin, it will require a second noticing, public hearing and filing. However, DWR will be reviewing basin boundaries in 2018, so it's a possibility that the two subbasins will be combined to form one basin at that time.**

#### **G. Groundwater banking and SV Basin recharge plan – Kristi Jamason**

**Kristi had a meeting with Helen Dahlke of UC Davis, who has been studying the effects of groundwater banking, including flooding alfalfa fields during the months outside of the irrigation season to promote recharge. The studies have found that alfalfa is hardy and can handle the excess water and that the flooding allows for recharging of the shallow aquifers. Dahlke will develop a potential scope of work for developing a recharge plan for Sierra Valley, likely involving the help of a grad student. Jamason reminded the Board that there is a map based on soil types projecting areas of the Valley that would be good for this type of banking strategy.**

#### **H. Technician report - Jay Huebert**

Huebert has completed the first monitoring well report of the year (on file), based on the wells he could get to due to field and weather conditions. Nearly all of the wells are up from how they have been trending the past five years. The Dave Bradley well (A23 directly across from Roen's) is still down, but it typically doesn't start to rise until May. The second page of the report shows the deep wells levels over the past five years. While the trend has been downward, overall there is some good recovery now. Next month he should be able to get to all of the monitoring wells.

#### **4) DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS**

##### **A. Meter quotes and recommendations – Jay Huebert**

There was discussion at the February meeting whether the District should repair current meters or go buy new meters to replace the broken ones. Huebert reported DMS 47 (Paul Simon) needs to be repaired. Based on a quote from TechnoFlo, the meter can be repaired for \$760 plus freight. Seametric's quote for a new meter (insertion paddle-wheel, digital, battery operated, programmable for any pipe size) was \$1,270 (\$846 meter + ~\$400 for the threaded saddle). Because the new meters can be recalibrated in the field, they cannot be certified. During the winter months, Huebert would be able to remove the computer portion of the meter and replace it with a plug for protection from cold weather. If the Board would like recommendations, TechnoFlo suggested talking to a man in Stockton that owns 63 of the new insertion type meters. Board members asked if DWR has specified requirements for certified meters.

##### **1. Purchase new meters or repair existing meters**

Director Roberti thinks it would be wise to rebuild DMS 47 now so it's ready for the irrigation season. Then more research can be done on the new meters, which will help decide which type of meter to buy for DMS 14.

##### **2. D&S Ranch Meter(s) on DMS 14**

Director Roen made a motion to repair the old McCrometer meter for DMS 47 and to authorize the Chair and Director Roberti to do further research on new meters for DMS 14, Director Rowson 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.

##### **B. Sierra Hot Springs new well application**

*This item was moved up to agenda item 3C (motion to amend the agenda from Director Roen) so that Brandon Pangman and Joel Burdick would not have to stay late at the meeting.*

Pangman, Sierra County Assistant Director of Planning and Building, shared that Sierra Hot Springs is going to be a commercial resort operation. While it's a preexisting business, they are working on an expansion project. The classification of the water permit under the state is requiring them to drill another well to supplement their existing water supply (surface water springs) with a well that produces 18.5 gpm for current operations. Sierra County needs to know if Sierra Hot Springs will need to have a groundwater evaluation report done. A well application hasn't been submitted yet, so they don't have specifics on well dimensions, depth, or design.

Director Roberti shared that he doesn't want the District to overregulate. The hydrologist says there is a lot of water in that area and a well pumping 18 gpm

**will have little effect. This business should not have to spend unnecessary money on a groundwater evaluation report.**

**Chairman Grandi also thinks a well in that area is not a problem, but does note there are SVGMD ordinances regarding development projects. The ordinances don't define "development project" and how they pertain to commercial developments is not clear.**

**Director Roen made a motion to approve the Sierra Hot Springs well application proposal so long as does not exceed a 6" casing or 100+ gpm pumping capability, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.**

#### **C. GSA Formation Resolution**

**Director Roen made a motion to adopt Resolution 17-02 as amended, Director Roberti 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.**

##### **1. GSA Eligibility committee**

**The committee to submit the GSA formation notifications will include Chairman Grandi, Director Rowson, Kristi Jamason, and the secretary.**

**Director Roen made a motion to authorize the committee to submit the GSA formation notifications to DWR before the next SVGMD board meeting, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.**

#### **D. DWR Map Corrections**

##### **1. Sierra County GIS database files cost – Paul Roen**

**Director Roen has discussed SVGMD needs with Sierra County, who has allotted \$4,000 for the District as a result. The secretary will submit a letter to the County to request the funding. The Board will use a portion of these funds to purchase the GIS parcel database file from Sierra County for \$50. Once the District has the parcel GIS files from both counties, they will be sent to Michael Serna with DWR so he can add the layers to a KMZ/Google Earth map, which will make validation of irrigation data more viable.**

#### **E. Budget for Ken Schmidt's Technical Report and/or Ordinance Map**

**Ken Schmidt stated the new zone map for the large-capacity well ordinance is going to cost "a couple thousand dollars." The District is due for another technical report since the last report covered 2012 to spring of 2014. The finance committee had budgeted for a technical report this year, but not for the zone map. With the funding coming from Sierra County, the Board would like to have Schmidt create the zone map and a new technical report simultaneously and hopes there will be efficiencies in doing both at the same time. Jerry Sipe is working on a list of all of the new ag wells that have been drilled in Plumas County since the beginning of 2014 to send to Schmidt.**

#### **F. Plumas National Forest 2016 parcel fees (contesting)**

**Plumas National Forest has contacted the District regarding the SVGMD management fee bill they received. They claim that we cannot tax federal lands, and they would like the bill removed from the County tax roll. However, SVGMD charges a management fee for services provided, not property tax. Jamason referenced Section 4 within Prop 218 legislation that government-owned parcels are not exempt: "Parcels**

within a district that are owned or used by any agency, the State of California or the United States shall not be exempt from assessment.”

Director Sanchez is going to discuss this with Plumas County counsel Craig Settlemire.

***SEC. 4. Procedures and Requirements for All Assessments. (a) An agency which proposes to levy an assessment shall identify all parcels which will have a special benefit conferred upon them and upon which an assessment will be imposed. The proportionate special benefit derived by each identified parcel shall be determined in relationship to the entirety of the capital cost of a public improvement, the maintenance and operation expenses of a public improvement, or the cost of the property related service being provided. No assessment shall be imposed on any parcel which exceeds the reasonable cost of the proportional special benefit conferred on that parcel. Only special benefits are assessable, and an agency shall separate the general benefits from the special benefits conferred on a parcel. Parcels within a district that are owned or used by any agency, the State of California or the United States shall not be exempt from assessment unless the agency can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that those publicly owned parcels in fact receive no special benefit.***

**G. Management Charge Ordinance**

Director Rowson made a motion to adopt the Ordinance 17-01, Director Wallace 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed, all in favor.

**H. Necessity of property insurance**

The District is currently paying \$1,020 annually for property insurance. The policy is up for renewal soon, but the Directors are unsure if this coverage is necessary. The secretary will email the policy to the Directors to review what it covers.

**5) CORRESPONDENCE LOG**

**A. Downey Brand – Public Records Act**

The California Supreme Court recently made a ruling about the Public Records Act. SVGMD Directors and employees should make an effort to keep personal and District-related communications separate.

**B. Subsidence in Sierra Valley**

Debbie Spangler from DWR sent notification to Jamason of a recent NASA report which shows ~6” ground subsidence between March 2015 and September 2016 in an area south of Highway 70 and west of Highway 49. The Plumas County Road Department surveyed that area in 1983. The Board would like to have them come and resurvey the area and compare the results to their 1983 benchmark data to verify if ground subsidence is taking place. Director Sanchez is going to ask if this is something the road department can do. One of the report’s authors requested well elevation and pumping data for the area where the subsidence was observed in order to validate their methodology. Jamason inquired about releasing total pumping by section data, as it is reported in the technical reports. Grandi and Roberti would like to talk to the author of the subsidence report.

**6) CASH BALANCE/FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**A. Finance report – balance of \$20,955**

**B. Bills received for payment**

- 1. Alliant SLIP insurance - \$377.81**
- 2. Workshop/office supplies reimbursement - \$187.25**
- 3. Meter Technician - \$0**
- 4. Secretary - \$800 for March, \$205.17 Jan/Feb. mileage**
- 5. Public Notices - \$439.10**

**Ratification to pay all bills as presented. Director Roen made a motion to approve, Director Ramelli 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed, all in favor.**

**7) ADJOURNMENT**

**Chairman Grandi adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.**

**Jenny Gant, Secretary**